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SPECIAL PUBLICATION

NUMBER 1

OF

The Chicago Academy of Sciences

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HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

ACADEMY

BY

WILLIAM KERR HIGLEY

Secretary of The Chicago Academy of Sciences



ISSUED JANUARY 1, 1902.

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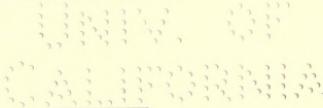
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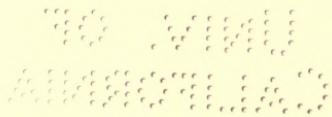
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PUBLISHED ALSO IN VOLUME II OF BLANCHARD'S
HISTORY OF THE NORTHWEST.





THE CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES—MATTHEW LAFLIN MEMORIAL.



HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

The Chicago Academy of Sciences is believed to have the honor of being organized at an earlier date than any other scholarly body now existing in Chicago. In the year 1856 a small circle of enthusiastic gentlemen united in a society for the promotion of scientific investigation, and adopted the name, "The Chicago Academy of Natural Sciences." These, the original members of the Academy, were: James V. Z. Blaney, Nathan S. Davis, Sr., James W. Freer, C. A. Helmuth, Hosmer A. Johnson, Edmund Andrews, Henry Parker, J. Young Scammon, Franklin Scammon, Richard K. Swift, Joseph D. Webster, Eliphalet W. Blatchford and Henry W. Zimmerman. To this list many other names were soon added, and the new society grew and developed rapidly.

A definite organization was completed at a meeting held January 13, 1857, in the office of Dr. Edmund Andrews, and the following officers were elected:

President, Professor James V. Z. Blaney.

Vice-presidents, Dr. Nathan S. Davis, Sr., Captain Joseph D. Webster.

Secretary, Dr. Hosmer A. Johnson.

Recording secretary, Dr. Henry Parker.

Treasurer, Col. R. K. Swift.

Curator and librarian, Dr. Edmund Andrews.

The need of funds soon became apparent, and subscriptions to the extent of about \$1,500 were readily obtained. A room was rented in a building located at the southeast corner of Clark and Lake streets, a few cases were procured, and the foundation of a museum was laid. This favorable beginning, however, was of short duration, for the financial crisis of 1857 and 1858 left but few of the subscriptions in a condition for collection. The society was unable to pay the

salary of a curator or to increase its museum accommodations. The publication of transactions had been planned, but this, the most ambitious wish of the members, was necessarily postponed. However, a few of the members worked on the cabinet in their leisure hours, and interesting monthly meetings were sustained.

In the year 1859, under the provisions of a general law, the society was incorporated under the name, "The Chicago Academy of Sciences," and at a meeting held April 26, of that year, it adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, A majority of the members of the Academy, acting in accordance with a vote of the Academy, have incorporated themselves under the title of The Chicago Academy of Sciences; therefore,

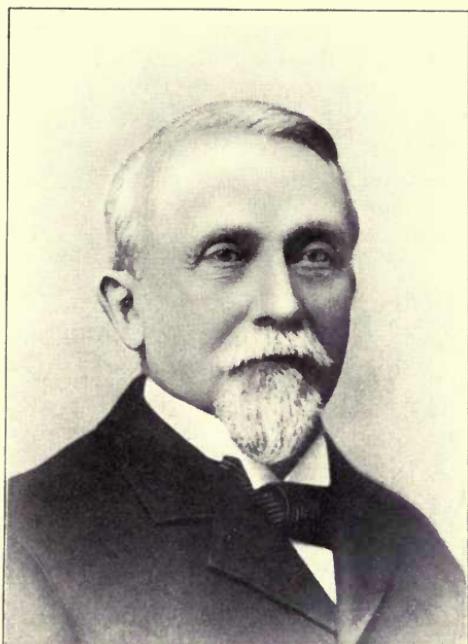
Resolved, That this Academy do now resolve itself into the above named corporate body, and transfer to the same all its members, property and interests.

Renewed activity and interest was the result of this reorganization. Much of the stimulus to this activity, as in the earlier period of the society, was furnished by Mr. Robert Kennicott, a young naturalist of great promise. He, with Dr. Edmund Andrews, had placed in the museum the larger number of the many thousand specimens already on exhibition. About this time Mr. Kennicott joined a scientific expedition to northwestern Arctic America. In the year 1862, after an absence of three years, he returned, bringing an abundant supply of material in all the departments of natural history and ethnology.

The expenses of this expedition, defrayed by the Smithsonian Institution, and by several residents of Chicago, were materially lessened by the unprecedented liberality of the officers of the Hudson Bay Co., acting both as officials and as individuals. The expedition was undertaken with the understanding that the Smithsonian Institution should be the first beneficiary, but that any other institution that Mr. Kennicott should designate, and which would suitably provide for their

reception and care, should also have a full series of the specimens. Mr. Kennicott naturally desired that this series should have a home in Chicago, and designated the Academy as the second beneficiary.

In the winter of the years 1863 and 1864 the affairs of the museum began to assume a more definite form. The value of the collections already offered, and the readiness of the Smithsonian Institution to fulfill its agreement as to duplicates and to add much other ma-



EZRA B. MCCAGG.

terial from its abundant stores, induced several prominent citizens of Chicago to undertake the founding of a permanent and more extensive museum of natural and applied sciences in this youthful metropolis of the central west.

Professor Louis Agassiz, of Harvard University, accepted an invitation to address a meeting of those interested. This meeting was held February 22, 1864, at the residence of Mr. Edmund Aiken. Both the lecturer

and the occasion aroused great enthusiasm. A subscription paper was started, to which the names of about 125 persons were soon appended, each agreeing to give the sum of \$500. The leading spirits in this movement were J. Young Scammon, George C. Walker, Ezra B. McCagg, Eliphalet W. Blatchford and Daniel Thompson.

The gentlemen present at this informal gathering, stimulated by the enthusiasm of Mr. Kennicott, adopted the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the creation of a museum of the natural sciences for the increase and diffusion of knowledge is highly desirable, and especially so at the present time, in order to secure to this city the large and valuable collection now apparently within its reach.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to devise ways and means and to act as trustees of any funds that may be raised for the accomplishment of this object.

Resolved, That the committee above designated consist of J. Young Scammon, Ezra B. McCagg, George C. Walker, Edmund Aiken, Daniel Thompson, Eliphalet W. Blatchford, Henry G. Loomis, William E. Doggett and two others whom they may name.

The success of this committee was extraordinary, and the generosity of Chicago's citizens was amply demonstrated, for only a very few weeks of soliciting were required to obtain the large list of subscribers already mentioned.

This movement was distinct from the work of the Academy; but on April 13, 1864, by an amendment to its constitution, the committee, acting as trustees of the fund, was made the board of trustees of The Chicago Academy of Sciences. The subscribers to the museum fund were made life members, with all the privileges of membership.

On June 10, 1864, the board of trustees of the museum fund adopted the following resolution, which had been proposed by a committee at a previous meeting:

Resolved, That the purposes of our temporary organization having been accomplished, the board of

trustees of the museum fund be and the same is hereby merged in and consolidated with the board of trustees of The Chicago Academy of Sciences, and the officers of this board be and the same are hereby declared to be the officers respectively of said board of trustees of The Chicago Academy of Sciences, and that they hold their respective places as such officers subject and according to the provisions and regulations heretofore adopted by this board, so far as the same are applicable; and that upon the adoption of such



J. YOUNG SCAMMON.

resolution this board of trustees be merged in the board of trustees of The Chicago Academy of Sciences.

At a meeting of this new board of trustees of the Academy, held June 10, 1864, the trust imposed upon it by the constitution of the Academy was unanimously accepted, and the following officers were elected:

President, J. Young Scammon.

Vice-President, William E. Doggett.

Secretary and Treasurer, George C. Walker.

This action completed the consolidation of the museum fund and The Chicago Academy of Sciences, and all the property and effects of the two organizations became vested in this board of trustees.

No words can better show the bright outlook of the Academy at this time than the following quotation from the records: "The committee, to whom was referred the subject of the disposition of the funds of this Association, would respectfully recommend that subscription notes and money to the amount of \$50,000 be set apart and securely invested, as paid in, as a permanent fund, the income from it to be used for the payment of the current expenses of the Association. The remainder of the subscriptions will not be sufficient to meet the estimated expenditures for the next three years; but the committee think that additional subscriptions may be safely relied upon within that time to meet those expenditures."

Rooms were secured in the Metropolitan block, and the cases and other property of the Academy were removed to them from their old quarters. New cases were also constructed to contain the additional collection received from the Smithsonian Institution.

In order that the interests of the Academy might be placed upon a firmer foundation, and its property vested in the board of trustees, it was deemed necessary to obtain a new charter. Application was made to the state legislature, early in the year 1865, with the result that the following enactment was adopted:

WHEREAS, An Association has heretofore been formed in the city of Chicago, called "The Chicago Academy of Sciences," the object of which is the increase and diffusion of scientific knowledge by a museum, a library, by the reading and publication of original papers and by such other suitable methods as shall from time to time be adopted;

Now, therefore, in order to encourage and promote the above declared objects of the said Association:

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:* That



J. Young Scammon, George C. Walker, Horatio G. Loomis, Daniel Thompson, Edmund Aiken, Ezra B. McCagg, Eliphalet W. Blatchford, William E. Doggett, Robert Kennicott, Edmund Andrews, Hosmer A. Johnson, Oliver F. Fuller, James W. Freer, William Bross, James V. Z. Blaney, Belden F. Culver, and their associates and successors forever, are hereby declared and created a body corporate by the name and style of "The Chicago Academy of Sciences," and by that name shall have perpetual succession, shall be capable in law to contract and to be contracted with, sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, within all courts of competent jurisdiction; may receive, acquire and hold real and personal property and effects, and may sell and dispose of the same at pleasure; may have a common seal, and alter the same at their pleasure; may make such constitutions, regulations and by-laws as may be requisite for its government and for carrying out the objects of the Association, and not contrary to the laws of the land, and may alter the same at their pleasure.

SEC. 2. The constitution and by-laws of said Association, now in operation, shall govern the corporation hereby created until regularly altered or appealed by the Association; and the present officers of said Association shall be officers of the corporation hereby created until their respective terms of office shall regularly expire or be vacated.

SEC. 3. All the money, property and effects of said "The Chicago Academy of Sciences" shall be held and managed by, and the title thereto, as also the title to all the real estate owned or to be owned by said Academy of Sciences, shall be vested in the board of trustees, from time to time, being as provided in the constitution of said Academy of Sciences; and all contracts and conveyances of said Academy of Sciences, to be binding, shall be executed by the president and secretary of the board of trustees.

SEC. 4. This act shall be a public act, and shall be in force from and after its passage.

ALLEN C. FULLER,
Speaker of the House.
WM. BROSS,
Speaker of the Senate.

Approved February 16, 1865.

RICHARD J. OGLESBY.

In March of the year 1865 the Western Union Telegraph Co. planned an expedition to survey along the northwest coast of North America for the purpose of establishing a route for a telegraph line intended to connect this continent with Asia by crossing the Behring Straits. The company very generously offered to naturalists the opportunity to conduct scientific investigations in a country at that time scarcely known, and



WILLIAM BROSS.

nearly inaccessible. Mr. Kennicott, who had been elected the curator of the Academy early in the previous year, with other young naturalists as his associates, eagerly availed himself of the unusual facilities thus granted. The outfit for scientific investigation and collecting, costing about \$1,000, was furnished by the Academy.

On March 21, 1865, Mr. Kennicott sailed from New York on the steamer "Golden Rule," and made his first

stop at Nicaragua. While crossing the isthmus, considerable collecting was done, and many interesting and valuable specimens were gathered. The remarkable energy of Mr. Kennicott, always apparent, was most marked at this time, and he was unanimously chosen by his associates as captain of the voyage. Continuing their journey, the party arrived at San Francisco on April 25. While there, Mr. Kennicott was notified of his election to the office of "Director of the Academy." This action of the board of trustees



ROBERT KENNICOTT.

was taken at a meeting held April 7, 1865. He telegraphed his acceptance of this added honor.

From this expedition, so auspiciously begun, and so successfully conducted, Mr. Kennicott never returned to resume the duties of his office. He died very suddenly, and while alone, May 13, 1866, on the banks of the Nulato river, amid the eternal solitudes of that remote and desolate region.

In his death the Academy and science lost one of their most devoted followers—one who from early boyhood had pursued his investigations with ardor and

enterprise, ever regardless of the necessarily attendant dangers and privations. An enthusiastic, successful and indefatigable worker in the Academy from its very beginning, it is fitting that a few words regarding his characteristics should be quoted from one who knew him: "None who ever saw him will forget his high spirits, which were always contagious, and the energy with which he followed his favorite pursuit of animated nature brought a glow to his cheek. Seeing him full of life, fun and irrepressible energy, it was impossible to resist an impulse of admiration; and one of his bitterest opponents and rivals on this expedition confessed, long afterward, that one glimpse of Kennicott in the field gave him a totally new and different opinion of the man. 'If I had known him sooner,' said he, 'we should have been always friends.'"

Notwithstanding the great loss sustained in his death, the Academy reaped a substantial harvest from this enterprise.

When Mr. Kennicott departed for the north the care of the museum was intrusted to Dr. William Stimpson, the secretary of the Academy, who was elected curator for one year. Dr. Stimpson studied under Agassiz, and had for years been in charge of the department of invertebrate zoölogy in the Smithsonian Institution. During this period he had made large collections of invertebrate animals from all waters, and had acquired such proficiency in this branch of natural history that he was recognized as the leading American authority in this special line of research. The Smithsonian Institution deposited with the Academy a full series of the specimens that had been collected by Dr. Stimpson, including specimens of his types. They also paid him the rare honor of sending to the Academy a large collection of its own specimens for his determination.

November 12, 1866, Dr. Stimpson was elected director of the Academy, to fill the vacancy caused by the

death of Mr. Kennicott. These two were the only persons who have been elected to this high office.

The period from 1865 to 1871 was one of notable prosperity and success. During 1865 Dr. Stimpson twice visited Washington to select specimens at the Smithsonian Institution, and succeeded in obtaining very large collections in nearly all the branches of natural history. He also added largely from his private collections.



WILLIAM STIMPSON.

In October of that year it became evident to the board of trustees that they would soon have to provide more ample accommodations for the collections, which were being rapidly enlarged.

In December the trustees purchased ground at Thirtieth street, fronting on both Indiana and Prairie avenues. The depth of this lot on each of the avenues was 130 feet. At this time this area could be obtained at the very low figure of \$35 a front foot, and it was thought that this would prove a good investment. It

was not the plan to build a home for the Academy on this property.

About this time the trustees of the Douglas estate offered to donate to the Academy the necessary land for a building in the vicinity of the old University of Chicago, at Thirty-fourth street and Cottage Grove avenue. The following letter pertaining to this offer is of interest:

“CHICAGO, December 12, 1865.

“TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES :

“*Gentlemen.*—The proprietors of the Douglas estate will donate to The Chicago Academy of Sciences as a location for that institution that portion of said estate described as follows : In block number one (as per plat), lots one to eighteen (1 to 18), inclusive, fronting on the University square, and also all the lots in the rear of these extending from alley to alley and fronting on Lyon avenue, being a piece of ground 215 feet front with a rear of 143 feet and a depth of 270 feet.

“Provided, that there shall be erected on said ground, within two years, a suitable building or buildings for the use of said Academy of Sciences, and which building or buildings shall be occupied for the purposes of said Academy for not less than ten years after the completion of the same.

“Respectfully submitted,

“(Signed) R. GRIGG.”

The board of trustees, before finally acting on this offer, decided to submit the proposition to the Academy. A majority of the members present at a meeting held December 12, 1865, voted to accept the offer. The dissenting members, however, formed so large a minority that the trustees decided to resubmit the proposition at a future meeting. The matter was again carefully considered at a meeting held April 10, 1866, and the following was adopted :

Resolved: That we recommend that, owing to the great distance of the proposed location at Cottage

Grove from the center of the city, the offer of a lot at that place by the trustees of the Douglas estate be declined.

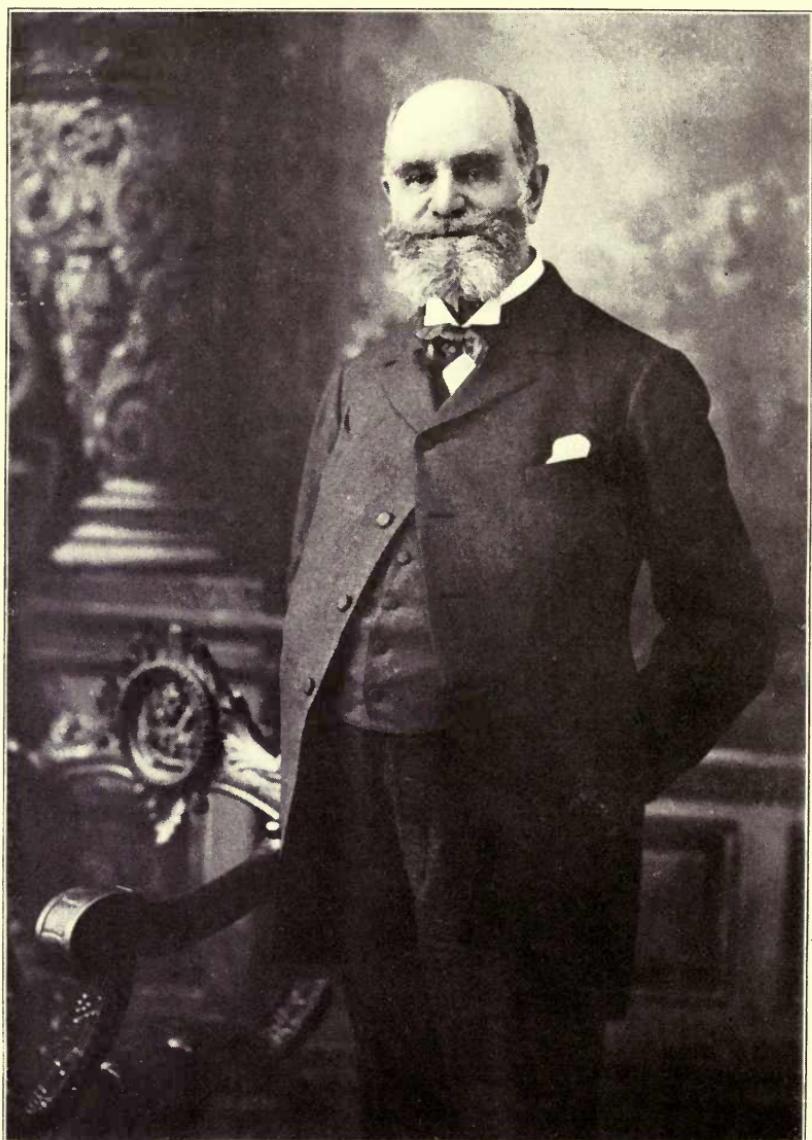
The Academy's board of trustees, acting on this recommendation, declined the gift.

On June 7, 1866, the collections and rooms of the society were seriously damaged by fire. The fire started in rooms of the Metropolitan block adjacent to those occupied by the Academy, but soon communicated with the museum hall. The collections, which were large and valuable beyond any moneyed compensation, were largely destroyed or seriously damaged.

Dr. Stimpson, in a report to the members, stated that, "Half the animals and birds were lost; the extensive collections of birds' nests and eggs were mainly consumed; nearly all the insects were destroyed; the dried crustaceans and echinoderms were all destroyed. The large herbarium was saved, with the exception of the plants of the northern Pacific expedition. The library was much damaged by water, but most of it was still in a condition to be used."

The Academy held \$30,000 of insurance on its property. The making up of the proofs of loss involved a great deal of careful labor, and Mr. Blatchford and Dr. Stimpson deserved much credit for the able and faithful manner in which they performed the work. The damaged specimens, books and other property were taken to a room in a building, owned by Mr. Scammon and Mr. McCagg, at the corner of La Salle and Lake streets, where Dr. Stimpson devoted several months in an effort to preserve them, but the final result showed that comparatively little of the property was of value, and a considerable portion of the insurance was finally collected. Many of the specimens destroyed were exceedingly valuable scientifically, and could not be replaced, and were therefore a severe loss to the scientific world as well as to the Academy.

Feeling the importance of fireproof accommoda-



ELIPHALET W. BLATCHFORD.

tions for the museum and library, the board of trustees decided to fit up the old quarters, in the repaired building, only for temporary use. They repaired the old wall cases and caused to be constructed several new cases for the storage of specimens. The room was put in order for taxidermy and for the arranging and labeling of specimens as they were received. But little attempt was made to prepare exhibitions for the public, and only a few additional cases for this purpose were provided.

On July 20, 1866, the board of trustees purchased from the Catholic bishop of Chicago a lot with frontage of fifty-five feet on Wabash avenue. This lot was north of Van Buren street, and included Nos. 263 and 265. A brick dwelling was situated on the south forty feet of this lot. This building the board repaired, and raising the roof they added another story. This structure was soon rented for a term of five years at an annual rental of \$3,000. The portion of the lot not occupied by the building was reserved. Upon the rear of this it was the intention to eventually erect a fire-proof building which should contain exhibition, library and work rooms and a suitable hall for the meetings of the Academy and for lectures. The selection of this central site for its future home was pleasing to all the members of the Academy.

The question of location having been settled, the board of trustees deemed it unwise longer to retain the property formerly purchased on Thirtieth street, and they therefore placed it in the market. In October, 1866, it was sold at a handsome advance over the purchase price, one-half to Mr. John W. Foss, and the remainder to Mr. Reuben P. Layton.

In the year 1867, at the request of the officers of the Smithsonian Institution, the Academy joined with them in sending Mr. Ferdinand Bishoff on an exploring expedition, for the purpose of conducting zoölogical investigations along the shores of the northern Pacific ocean, and of collecting specimens. The Academy was

to pay one-half of the expenses and to receive one-half of the results.

During the same year a complete set of the game birds of Illinois was prepared and sent as an Academy exhibit to the World's Fair, to be held in Paris. This collection was greatly admired by visitors to the fair, and was finally exchanged for a fine collection of mounted European birds.

The plans for the new building to be erected by the Academy on the rear of its Wabash avenue property were prepared early in this year, but they were not fully developed and accepted until late in the spring, and work on the building was not commenced until in June. The details incident to the erection of the building were under the supervision of a committee of the board of trustees, consisting of Daniel Thompson, Eliphalet W. Blatchford and George C. Walker. These gentlemen gave much time and attention to this work, and carefully watched the construction at every step. The architect was W. W. Boyington.

The building, which was fifty feet wide by fifty-five feet in depth, and about fifty feet in height, was reached from Wabash avenue by a court eighteen feet in width. The building was finished throughout and contained a basement, a ground story, and above this a museum hall, containing two galleries. There is an interesting note in the records of the Academy to the effect that the building "Was fireproof throughout, and that no expense was spared to guard against another loss by fire."

The museum hall was filled with well constructed exhibition cases of several suitable designs, which were "Moth and dust proof." The first floor was arranged for the secretary, office, library and meeting hall. The exterior of the building was plain but substantial, no attempt being made at ornate display.

The building was completed in January, 1868, and the first meeting of the society held in the new hall

was the annual meeting of that year on January 28. During the month of December, 1867, the collections which had accumulated since the fire of June 7 were removed from the old quarters in the Metropolitan block and placed in the new museum.

The supposed fireproof character of its new home, which was unique at that time in the construction of museum buildings, led many institutions, as well as private individuals, to send large and valuable collections to the Academy. This was especially true of the Smithsonian Institution.

During the year 1868 many specimens were received from the Bishoff expedition, and some, including birds and plants, from the Kennicott expedition of two years before. Previous to this time the museum had been opened only to members of the Academy, students of natural history and invited guests; but numerous requests were received, asking permission to visit the collections. It became evident that the general public was interested; and on November 9, 1869, the following resolution was adopted by the board of trustees:

Resolved, That the museum of the Academy, located in their building, be opened to the public every Saturday from 9 o'clock A. M. to 5 o'clock P. M. On other week days members of the Academy, students of the natural sciences and strangers in the city will be admitted upon application to the secretary of the building.

This step tended to popularize the Academy, and was thoroughly appreciated by the public. It was the stepping stone to a greater freedom and a more general invitation to all to visit the museum, and finally resulted in throwing open the doors every day in the year, and all comers were admitted without charge. This rule holds to-day, and must continue in force so long as the Academy has a home in Lincoln Park.

Appreciating that the title, "Academy of Sciences," was a broad one, and that in the limited number of meetings possible in each year time would not permit

the presentation of papers representing the work of the numerous special lines of investigation, it was deemed advisable to so modify the constitution as to permit the organization of sections. In January, 1870, such an amendment was adopted, and a "Section of Microscopy" and a "Section of Botany" were formed.

Thus the Academy advanced step by step. Each monthly meeting showed an increased interest. It was evident that the affairs of the society were ably managed, and that a strong foundation had been established, upon which could be built a future valuablea like to the lay and to the professional seekers after scientific knowledge. During the last five months of the year 1870, 2,058 people visited the museum. This was a gratifying number for that period in the history of Chicago. At the close of that year the total membership of the society numbered 139 life, sixty-nine resident and forty-six corresponding members.

At the beginning of the year 1871 a brilliant future seemed assured. Choice material constantly flowed to its care, and the enthusiasm of the members steadily grew under the wise guidance of Director Stimpson.

But the evidences of the prosperity of the Academy were not measured solely by these material elements. It had a large hold upon public esteem. It was popular to be scientific and to foster those things which would aid and advance the investigation of the truths of nature. The display of specimens and apparatus and discussions of new theories were welcomed in the homes of our citizens. Many *soirées* were held, and largely attended by representative people.

The act which perhaps did more than any other to establish a reputation for the Academy and give it a recognized place as a scientific institution among the older societies, European as well as American, was the publication of its first volume of transactions. This was a royal octavo volume, containing eleven valuable papers and 337 pages. It was beautifully illustrated

with thirty-four full-page plates and a number of text figures. The mechanical execution was above criticism. The papers represented original research, and were recognized as contributions of the highest value to science. The outlook was bright indeed, but the hopes and ambitions of all were doomed to disappointment, and the Academy was again destined to pass through severe trials.

On the night of October 9, 1871, the great fire, whose record is now a part of history, swept away a large part of the city of Chicago. The Academy's building was near the southern border of the burned district, and time would have permitted the removal of its most valuable contents, but it seemed more dangerous to remove them than to allow them to remain, as the building was considered fireproof. Those present at the museum closed every avenue of attack by the fire, removed from the walls whatever would readily burn, piled the library and valuable manuscripts upon the floor, and departed to a place of safety, expecting on their return to find everything safely preserved, but, like all the other fireproof buildings in the city, many of which were constructed in the most perfect manner to which human art had yet attained, it went down in a fiery furnace, the magnitude of which the world had never before seen, and in an intensity of heat which even stone and iron could not resist. The lesson taught by our great disaster is that no building, however admirably constructed, can be considered fireproof, unless it is also isolated.

In the minute book of the board of trustees there is the following record:

"On the 9th of October, 1871, in that great conflagration which swept away all the better portion of Chicago, the Academy building, with all its valuable contents, was burned. Hardly a vestige remained. It was the work of years laid low in an hour, and we might truthfully say that in some instances it was the

destruction of all the results of the labors of a lifetime. Many persons had labored faithfully for the Academy from its very organization. They had watched its steady growth month by month, and year by year, and felt a just pride in all it had accomplished. It was very dear to them, for their labor had helped to make it. Their work had been one for love of science, and they had acted from a heartfelt desire to benefit their fellow-man. In that building were the collections of the very founder of the institution, Mr. Robert Kennicott, who worked so faithfully, but died before he could see the great good he had done. There were also the collections, library, publications and valuable manuscripts of Dr. William Stimpson. His loss was beyond computation. It seemed as though all the labor of his life was gone. In a letter to the secretary he says in reply to some words of sympathy, he had, indeed, lost heavily—in fact his all—the product of days and nights of toil in many parts of the world for the past twenty years. He had looked forward to the publication of his own works by the government, and consoled himself with the thought that although he could not leave his children wealth, he could yet leave them this assurance, that he had nevertheless not been idle. But a fatality seemed to attend him. He had just completed, by his trip in August, the gathering in of all his materials—from his father's house, from Agassiz's, from Ilchester, and from the Smithsonian, just in time for the fire. ‘But had I lost twice as much I shall never regret coming to Chicago, for I have found there noble and generous friends, not only to myself, but friends of science such as no other city in America can boast; and of more value to me than worldly possessions will be the memory of the friendly experiences I have had with yourself and the other trustees and the friends of the Academy, while we together built up a monument which, though now leveled

with the dust, will long live in scientific history. May our past be an earnest of our future.' "

As the record books of the museum were entirely consumed, a full statement of the losses cannot be made. No history of the Academy would be complete, however, without an enumeration of the more important collections that had been placed in its care. Fortunately Dr. Stimpson was so familiar with the collections that he was able to spread on the minutes a very complete report of its past possessions. Some of these collections were of so much importance in the scientific world that even now inquiries are received asking as to their whereabouts. They had formed the basis of publications, for many of the specimens were types. Even though the time had been so short since the organization of the Academy, there was far more in the museum and library than was generally understood or even suspected, for the building was filled from basement to attic with exhibits and specimens. The lack of room for the new accessions, which were constantly arriving, was so marked that the trustees had considered the necessity of acquiring a new location and the erection of a larger and more commodious building which should have a larger area for the ever increasing additions. Dr. Stimpson stated that, "The actual cost of the specimens, reckoning the cost of purchase or the expense of collection, was not less than \$200,000."

The following are among the valuable special collections lost in this catastrophe:

1. The state collection of insects, which contained a large number of types.
2. The William Cooper collection of marine mollusca, which was one of the most complete in this country.
3. The Florida collection, which very fully illustrated the zoölogy of the Florida coast in all its departments.

4. The splendid series of specimens illustrative of the natural history of Alaska, collected in 1865 to 1869 by Bishoff and the naturalists of the Western Union Telegraph expedition.

5. The Smithsonian collection of crustacea, undoubtedly at that time the largest alcoholic collection in the world. This filled over 10,000 jars containing types of the species described by Prof. Dana and other American authors, besides hundreds of new species, many of which were described in manuscript lost by the same fire.

6. The invertebrates of the United States north Pacific exploring expedition, largely collected in the Japanese seas by Dr. Stimpson during the years 1853 to 1856. This collection included a large number of annelides, mollusks and radiates, many of which were undescribed except in manuscripts, which were also lost.

7. The Stimpson collection of marine shells, collected on the sea coast from Maine to Texas. This valuable collection represented the labor of twenty years. Nearly every species was illustrated by specimens from every locality in which it occurs, not only in our own shores, but also on those of Europe and the Arctic sea. There were about 8,000 separate lots of specimens.

8. The United States coast survey collection of deep sea crustacea and mollusks, dredged in the gulf stream by Mr. M. Pourtales in the years 1867 and 1868. This collection had been sent to Dr. Stimpson for description.

9. A large collection of the tertiary fossils from Virginia and Alabama.

10. The Dr. Franklin Scammon herbarium, consisting of over 6,000 species of plants.

11. The Scammon collection of ancient Central American pottery and implements.

12. The Arctic collection of Robert Kennicott, made during the years 1859 to 1861. These, though

damaged by the fire of 1866, were still one of the most important collections of the museum.

The general collection contained about 2,000 mammals; 30 mounted skeletons, including two mastodons, an African elephant, sea otter and an elephant seal; 10,000 birds; 1,000 nests, with the eggs, and a great quantity of eggs without the nests; 1,000 reptiles; 5,000 fishes, including many large sharks and rays; 15,000 species of insects and other articulates; 5,000 species of mollusks, with a large number of duplicates; 3,000 jars of radiates, including several hundred corals; 1,000 jars of mollusks in alcohol; 8,000 species of plants; 15,000 species of fossils and 4,000 minerals. Besides these there were 1,000 specimens illustrative of American archaeology and ethnological collection, which embraced a very fine series of the clothing and implements of the Esquimaux of the Anderson river, collected by Robert Kennicott and others, and presented to the Academy by the Smithsonian Institution.

The library contained about 2,000 volumes, and over 5,000 pamphlets and maps. Besides these, there were in the building and destroyed with it the library of the Audubon club; the valuable conchological library of Mr. George C. Walker, which included colored copies of the works of Sowerby, Reeve, Philippi, Dunker, Romer and Kuster, Martini, Chemnitz and others; the library of works on the marine invertebrates belonging to Secretary Stimpson, which practically included all the extant works on this subject.

A number of valuable manuscripts, representing the study and investigation of the various collections, were destroyed. Some of these were to be published by the Smithsonian Institution, and some through other sources. There were several hundred accurate drawings, illustrating different forms, which had been made at a considerable expense, and belonged to the manuscript reports.

As the building was considered fireproof, no insur-

ance was carried on either the structure or its contents. On the dwelling house there were two policies, each written for \$5,000.

Thus in a few hours the Academy had lost all. Its buildings, its records, its valuable collections and its library were totally destroyed; yet ambition, hope, and above all, courage and will, still remained the dominant characteristics of its members. Within twelve days steps were taken looking toward its rehabilitation.

At a special meeting of the board of trustees, which was held October 23, 1871, and at which the future of the Academy was discussed, J. Young Scammon, Daniel Thompson and George C. Walker were appointed a committee on the disposition of the Wabash avenue property, and to consider the future location of the Academy building. Several offers of rooms, in which the Academy might establish a temporary home, were received. Before the last of the month of December, 1871, the debris on the Academy's lot had been removed, preparatory to improving it, provided no sale was made; and it was deemed wise to remain in that locality.

The first meeting of the members after the fire was held on the evening of October 21, 1871. At this meeting steps were taken to build up the collections, and several donations were announced. At the regular November meeting President John W. Foster spoke of the prospects and hopes of the members for the Academy's future. He was full of faith that the Academy, like the private interests that had suffered, would be speedily restored, and he predicted that in five years there would be built as good a building with as great a collection as that which was lost.

During the few years of its existence, vigorous and well directed exertion had established for the Academy a worthy reputation, which proved a most potent factor in its rehabilitation. The foreign and domestic societies which were its correspondents and

had received from it the important contributions to knowledge which it had issued, came to its aid with cordial and spontaneous assistance. These societies not only continued to send their exchanges, but in many cases gave complete files of their earlier issues, which under ordinary circumstances are obtained with exceeding difficulty. Thus the lost library was in a great measure restored. The museum also was similarly fortunate through the contributions of societies and individuals.

The kindness of societies and individual friends was constant and demonstrated that the Academy had not, after all, lost everything. The members were becoming reassured and the future again looked bright, when on May 26, 1872, its director and secretary, William Stimpson, was removed from these offices by death. In the great fire, Dr. Stimpson lost all the results of an earnest and prolific life. His extensive and unique collections had perished. The manuscripts in which they were described and illustrated, and which represented the patient and accurate research of years, were gone. Always feeble, this blow was too much, and his health was still further undermined. After he had made his report regarding the losses sustained by the Academy, he was granted an indefinite leave of absence. He went to Florida hoping that a milder climate would, as it had done before, restore him to reasonably good health. From this trip he never returned, and passed away at the home of his friends in Ilchester, Maryland.

The death of the Academy's chief executive officer was indeed a great affliction. He had done more than any one else, with the exception of Robert Kennicott, to build up its scientific interests. It is seldom that a person is honored with three high offices at the same time in such an organization, but Dr. Stimpson was both director of the museum, a trustee for life and secretary of the Academy.

In the administration of its affairs during the few

years intervening since its organization he raised it, in the magnitude of its collections, to the fifth, and in certain departments, to the first in rank in the United States. He organized a system of exchanges which extended to distant and widely separated regions. He maintained a correspondence with kindred societies at home and abroad. He classified and arranged the materials gathered from every quarter of the globe into a harmonious system, of use both to the public and to the student. He was profoundly versed in many branches of natural science, and was one of a few in whom was combined ability as a collector of facts and specimens, with the power accurately to describe and classify what he had gathered. In his social relations he was kind and courteous, and, while ready at all times to impart information, he was not obtrusive in his opinion. He loved science for its own sake, and all his labors were directed to its advancement.

A statement of the direct losses by the fire by no means includes all the misfortunes which the Academy had to bear because of that catastrophe. Shortly before that time friends conspired together in its behalf. They entered into an agreement that they would build for it a new edifice, at a cost of \$100,000. This project was fully ripe, even to the drawing of the plans, when the fire prevented its realization. These friends were: Eliphalet W. Blatchford, George C. Walker and Daniel Thompson.

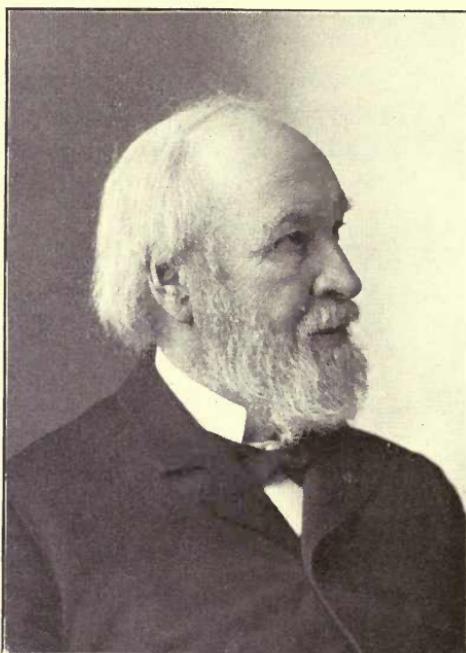
Immediately after the fire the citizens of Chicago were aflame with the ambition to rebuild their city, and to make it more substantial and attractive than ever before. This same zeal was the controlling spirit that animated those who had so wisely guided the affairs of the Academy. They determined to rebuild the museum, and to erect upon the front of the property a handsome and commodious block suitable for business purposes. The funds controlled by the Academy were not sufficient for such a project. Therefore the board of trustees

borrowed the additional amount required, securing the lender by mortgage upon the whole property. They estimated that the income from the rents would provide a sinking fund by which the original indebtedness would be paid when it became due, besides furnishing in part the means of defraying the current expenses. Looking to the future, they expected that ultimately, after the cost of the building had been met and the mortgage released, there would be an ample and well secured endowment, and future prosperity would thus be assured. The plan proved disastrous, as the area of trade did not increase to such an extent as to include these premises, and the long continued financial depression, which began in 1873, followed. The new building was unoccupied for a long time, and the income derived from it did not even pay the interest on the mortgage; so, after a term of years, by the processes of law, the whole property was lost.

When the Wabash avenue property passed from the ownership of the Academy, new friends appeared. It still had its collections and books, but its losses had a depressing effect on its members. Hope for the future was not entirely gone, but rested in the minds of only a few. In 1886, when the sale was finally forced, an offer was received from and an arrangement made with the managers of the Interstate Exposition, by which the collections were to have space for exhibition in their building, then situated in the Lake Front park, at the foot of Adams street, where the Art Institute now stands. For the privilege of having this attraction in their building, the managers agreed to furnish an office for the curator, where the business of the Academy could be transacted. They also agreed to pay his salary.

The conditions under which the collections were placed during the next six years could hardly have been worse. They were subjected to grime, smoke and dust; to danger from fire and the untutored handling of a

thoughtless throng of visitors. Yet this asylum was the only one available, and the kind purpose of the Exposition managers and of their secretary, Mr. John P. Reynolds, should not be forgotten, nor its value in the least deprecated, for they not only freely offered the best at their disposal, but paid annually the many expenses incurred in the care of the collections, which, except for this friendly aid, might have been scattered or destroyed, or at least stored where they would have been inaccessible. The library was packed and stored.



EDMUND ANDREWS.

In the spring of 1892 the Exposition building was torn down, and the trustees were forced to remove and store the collections. That the Academy was kept alive during this period of depression was due to the earnest and effective work of the president, Dr. Edmund Andrews, and the secretary, Dr. J. W. Velie. These two were the only active working officers, and Dr. Velie was the only one who devoted his whole time

and attention to its interests. The actively interested members were few, but these few had perseverance and still retained much of the old time ambition, and they believed in the future success of the Academy. There were reasons why it ought to continue to live. Dr. Velie stood stanchly by it through prosperity and adversity. He gathered for its collections in places near and remote; he spent money from his own income in many instances, in order more perfectly to preserve



J. W. VELIE.

its interests; with his own hand, and without assistance, he mounted the materials gathered, and fitted them for proper display. For this work he possessed a rare gift, and was eminently successful in pleasing the public. He arranged the programs for the meetings and kept the museum in the best condition that the means and accommodations at hand would permit, and ultimately saved it from total destruction. To Dr. Andrews and Dr. Velie the Academy owes lasting obligations.

This period of inactivity and depression lasted till the latter part of the year 1891, when the old interest and ambitions were aroused in the minds of many of the members. The cause of this renewed activity, when affairs seemed to have reached their most disastrous limit, was a proposition made to the board of trustees by the University of Chicago. This offer included the proposal to remove the Academy's headquarters and its property to the University campus and to unite its fortunes with those of the University. The overtures made by the University were in the fullest degree courteous, kindly in spirit and commendable in promise. The University offered in substance to furnish room for the collections and apartments for the meetings and offices. They agreed to pay the curator's salary and the incidental expenses incurred in the care of the property. They gave assurance that the Academy's autonomy should be maintained; that it should elect its own officers and have full control of its own property, thus preserving its own independent existence.

This plan was favored by some of the most faithful patrons of the Academy. They were men who had supported its tottering fortunes during long years of adversity, not merely by their countenance and influence, but by constantly repeated pecuniary help, which aggregated large sums of money. They found in this plan the only hope for the perpetuating of an enterprise which they had always held dear. Upon the advisability of accepting the proposition of the University these friends, really the fathers of the Academy, were agreed. These views were adopted by the board of trustees and referred, before final action, to the members for a decision regarding the acceptance of the offer.

One of those who most strenuously favored the acceptance of this offer was Mr. George C. Walker, a trustee since its organization, and always a champion

of its work and welfare. Its interests were always foremost in his mind, and to him are due the sincerest thanks of its members, both past and present. The notable financial successes of the Academy throughout its history were largely due to Mr. Walker's efforts.

But the members felt that the movement, though not so intended, would result in the loss to the Academy of its identity, and that gradually the members



GEORGE C. WALKER.

who were affiliated with other institutions would withdraw, while those connected with the university would remain. Thus, after no very long time, it would become merely a department of the university, or be entirely merged therein. They also realized that Chicago was surrounded with a cordon of institutions of learning, all efficient, but different in important respects, and to a certain degree antagonistic; and that these institutions were drawing about Chicago a great number of scholars, distinguished in their

varied scientific specialties, who would enjoy meeting together on common ground in friendly intercourse, should there be established and maintained an arena in some central locality, where all might unite. They also believed that The Chicago Academy of Sciences, because of its history, its traditions and the successes it had achieved, its independence in spite of the misfortunes which it had suffered, because of what it was and what it could become, should be so ordered and administered that these elements could meet in its building and unite under its name. They believed that it should stand on neutral ground.

The members also advanced in opposition to the plan the long distance of the university campus from the center of the city. This argument was also advanced as earnestly at the time the Douglas estate offered grounds on Cottage Grove avenue. The members present at the regular meeting of the Academy, when the proposition was submitted, voted against its acceptance, and the trustees acted in accordance with their expressed wish.

The result of this discussion was most satisfactory, for it awoke the members from their lethargy. All began to seek some more satisfactory solution of the difficulties in which the Academy was involved. At the annual meeting of the year 1892 Dr. Selim H. Peabody was elected president. He had served as secretary during the period from December, 1875, to October, 1878, at which time he became a professor in the State University of Illinois. The meetings were well attended, and other organizations, such as the Chicago Chemical Society and the State Microscopical Society, expressed a desire to transfer their membership to the Academy. This union was perfected. A large number of worthy and working scientists applied for enrollment, so that within that year the list of active members was nearly doubled. The members, both new and old, were ready to form themselves into

groups for the discussion of subjects along special lines. This is an age of specialists, and sections of microscopy, photography, entomology, chemistry, astronomy and physics, ethnology, pathology and geology were formed, and held regular monthly meetings. In fact, at no time in its history had the Academy shown a more vigorous life. This was the first result of the agitation concerning removal.

In the summer of the year 1892 an offer was received from the board of commissioners of the west park system to build a home for the Academy in Garfield park, fronting on Madison street. This very promising offer was considered with favor by the board of trustees, but on consultation with legal authorities it was found that the law governing the actions of this board of commissioners would not enable them to make a contract which would protect the Academy in the ownership of its specimens and be binding on future boards appointed to control the affairs of the park.

About the same time the welcome intelligence was brought to the members that a Chicago family was animated with a generosity so wise and far seeing as to offer the means for building a permanent, secure and beautiful home for the Academy.

Mr. Matthew Laflin, who during a long and successful business career had been identified with the interests of Chicago, and who had grown up with it, seconded and aided by his sons, George H. Laflin and Lycurgus Laflin, had promised to give a generous sum of money toward this most noble purpose, under the following conditions:

1. That the building should be fireproof.
2. That it should be erected on an appropriate site in Lincoln park.
3. That the museum should be opened to the public without charge.
4. That the plans for the building should be approved by the family of the donor.

5. That the building should be started in the year 1893 and completed in 1894.

The commissioners of Lincoln park indicated a willingness to enter into an agreement with the Academy and Mr. Laflin, by which a plot of ground in the park should be designated for the occupancy of the building. At this point it was called to mind that several years before, the state legislature, at the instance of Mr. William C. Goudy, the attorney of and



WILLIAM C. GOUDY.

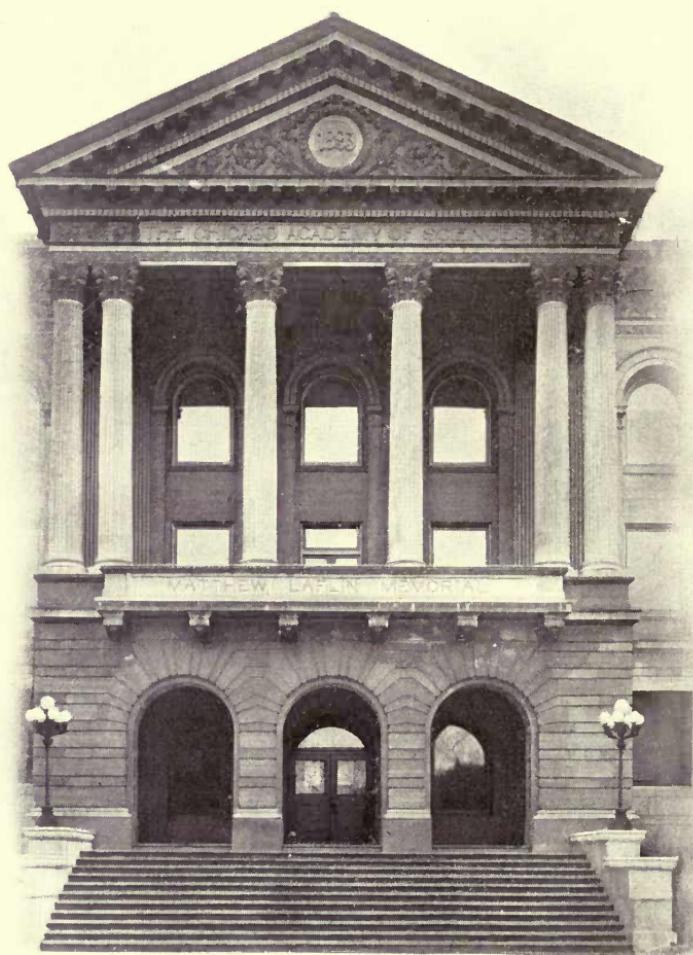
at this time president of the board of commissioners of Lincoln park, had enacted a law which gave authority to that board by which it might provide for the Academy of Sciences within the territory over which they had control and enter into a perpetual contract. The commissioners also expressed a willingness to contribute to the expenses of construction, with the understanding that they were to have within its walls rooms for their offices in perpetuity.

Accordingly contracts were drawn and accepted by the three parties interested. The building was to cost \$100,000, of which Mr. Laflin contributed \$75,000, and the board of commissioners of Lincoln Park \$25,000. The contract specified that the building should be known as the Matthew Laflin Memorial, and should be occupied chiefly for the purposes of the Academy, a suite of apartments being set aside for the offices of the park authorities. The Academy was to have absolute and perpetual control of that part of the building devoted to its uses.

Appreciative recognition should be made here of the wise forethought of Mr. Goudy shown in the adjustment of these conditions, in which the interests of both the Academy and of the park were alike conserved. This wise and sagacious friend and counselor did not survive to see the building erected or the conditions of the contract fully operative. Mr. Goudy died April 27, 1893.

The site furnished for the building was most desirable. It was situated on the west side of the park, opposite the opening of Center street. The building was designed by architects Patton & Fisher, upon lines suggested by the officers of the Academy. It was to be 132 feet in length by sixty-one feet in width, with a central portico in front forty feet in width and a projection of eleven feet. The style of architecture was to be Italian renaissance, the material buff Bedford limestone surmounted by a roof of red tile. The entrance was to be by a massive flight of stone steps, thirty-six feet in width, leading to a triple arch stone portico. On the first floor were to be the entrance hall, library and offices of the Academy and park commissioners. The great museum hall on the second floor was to be 55x128 feet in size, and surrounded on all sides by a gallery.

The corner stone of this edifice was laid October 10, 1893, in the presence of a large audience. Addresses



MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE ACADEMY'S BUILDING.

were delivered by Mr. Robert A. Waller, president of the park board, Hon. John P. Altgeld, governor of the state of Illinois, Dr. Tarleton A. Bean, of the National museum, and Dr. Selim H. Peabody, president of the Academy.

As soon as progress in the finishing of the building would permit, the collections, which had been stored near by since their enforced removal from the

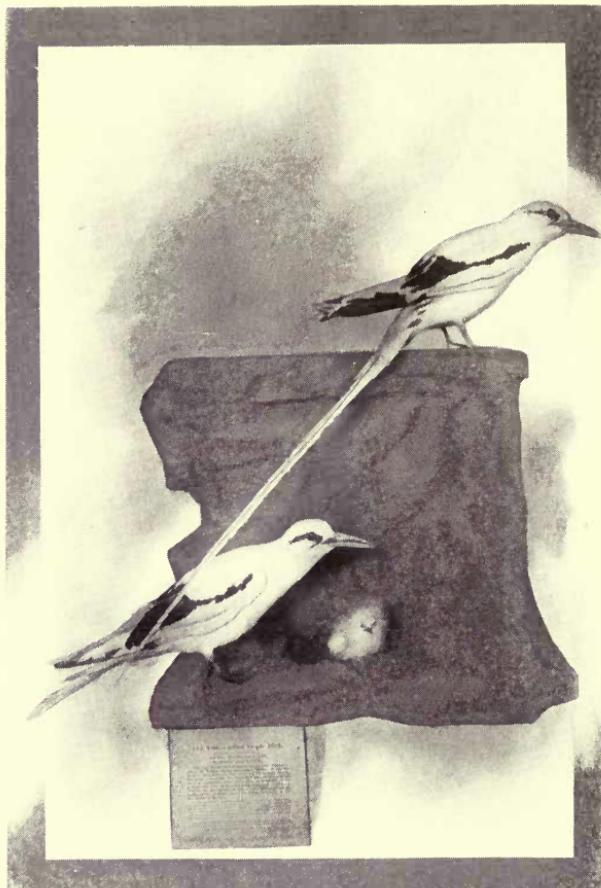


A STUDY SERIES.

old Exposition building, were transferred to the new basement and there carefully examined, renovated and fitted for exhibition. This work was ably performed by Mr. Frank Collins Baker, the newly elected curator, who, during the years of his service, has placed the specimens in a most creditable form for the use of students, and for examination by the public.

The building was dedicated and opened to the public on the evening of Wednesday, October 31, 1894.

The gathering of members and friends was addressed in the new and beautiful assembly hall, by Mr. Luther Laflin Mills, representing the Laflin family; by Dr. Thomas C. Chamberlin, of the University of Chicago;



YELLOW BILLED TROPIC BIRD.

by Dr. Sarah Hackett Stevenson, and Dr. Selim H. Peabody, president of the Academy.

The Academy's history may be divided into three distinct and interesting periods. Each period is marked by a series of successes and reverses.

The first period includes the time from the move-

ment to organize the parent society, "The Chicago Academy of Natural Sciences," 1856, to the date of the destruction of the Academy's property in the great fire, 1871. The second period dates from the fire, and closes with the opening of the Matthew Laflin Memorial building, in 1894.

In the later days of the second period (1892) the Academy inaugurated one of the most important branches of its work. This, the "Natural History Survey of Chicago and Vicinity," is of value both to the student of natural history and to the business man, for, when completed, it will have finished an investigation of both economic and purely scientific features of the area covered.

At the time of organization of the survey three general departments were decided upon: Geology and allied sciences, topography, zoölogy and botany. It was further decided that the work in the several divisions of these departments should be intrusted to men recognized as specialists, and published as bulletins and reports, which should be as nearly monographic as possible. Since the organization of the survey the work has been steadily progressing, and a large amount of data has been collected.

The area covered by the survey was known to be peculiar in two distinct systems of drainage, either of which might, under certain conditions, prevail over the other. As this peculiarity of the drainage is of great scientific interest, it was thought desirable to emphasize this by fixing upon the following boundaries: Beginning at the north line of Cook county and Lake Michigan, thence westward, coincident with the north line of Cook county to Kane county; thence southward along the east line of Kane and Kendall counties to the southeast corner of Kendall county; thence eastward, coincident with the south line of Cook county to the east line of Lake county, Ind.; thence northward to Lake Michigan.

These boundaries include an area of about forty-eight or fifty miles square, which, after deducting the approximate area of the lake covered portions, leaves nearly 1,800 square miles of land surface. It comprises all of Cook and Du Page counties, the nine north townships of Will county, and a portion of Lake county, Ind.

The importance of this survey will be appreciated when the rapid growth of the city of Chicago is considered. The surface of the area is constantly changing,



PRESIDENT THOMAS C. CHAMBERLIN.

both because of the agency of man and of other forces. The numerous railroads centering here are constantly bringing new things to the soil, which, finding a congenial climate, finally become a fixed part of our natural history. More important still is the recording of natural features that are being exterminated or effaced, and of which no indication will be left except in printed records. The historians of Chicago and its environments in future generations will have to depend

on the printed documents of the present for the indigenous natural features.

The third period has begun, but is not yet closed. Since the Academy entered its new building its work has, with the exception of a few reverses, constantly advanced in value, both to its members and to the public. Its lectures and meetings have been well attended; its publications have increased in number and value, and its museum is open to the public every day in the year.

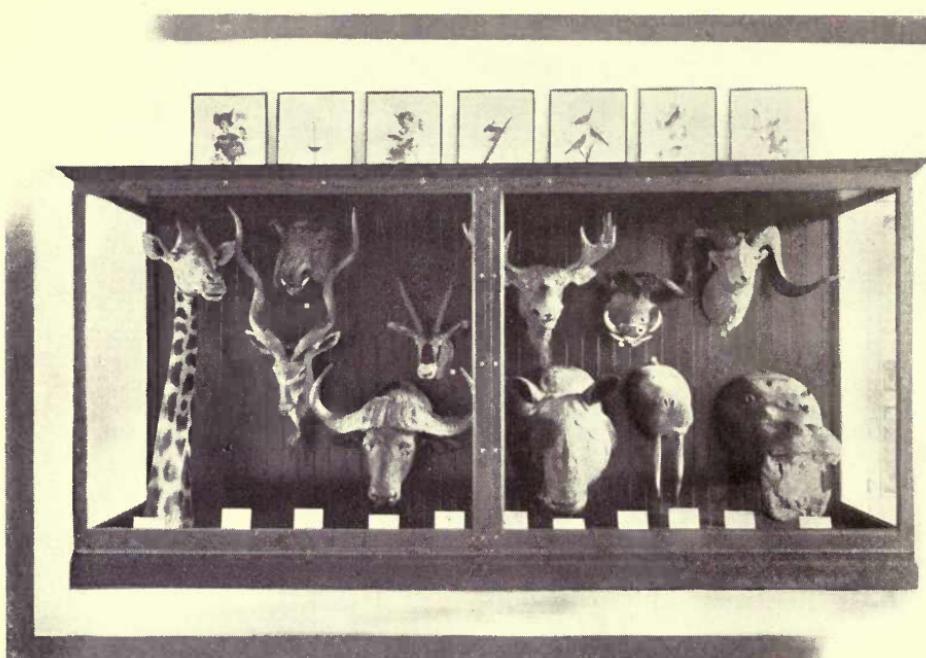
The following is a summary of the collections of the Academy:

	Specimens.
In Mineralogy	5,000
" Paleontology	15,000
" Lower Invertebrates.....	2,500
" Mollusca	75,000
" Arthropoda	35,000
" Lower Vertebrates	300
" Ornithology	4,000
" Mammalogy	200
" Ethnology	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>138,000</u>

The following are some of the special collections included in the above enumeration:

	Species.	Specimens.
W. C. Egan collection of local Niagaran fossils -	200	5,000
W. C. Egan collection of paleozoic fossils -	1,200	7,000
John Walton collection of the genus Cypræa	- - - - -	165 500
Andrew Bolter collection of insects	- - - - -	4,000 10,000
Charles Sonne collection of coleoptera	- - - - -	2,500 10,000
Frank M. Woodruff collection of local birds	- - - - -	170 1,000
Frank C. Baker collection of local mollusks	175	5,000
Howard N. Lyon collection of mollusks -		10,000
William K. Higley collection of local mollusks	- - - - -	2,000

	Species.	Specimens
J. H. Ferriss and J. H. Handwerk collection of local birds	- - -	1,000
Francis S. Dayton collection of local birds		364
Francis S. Dayton collection of local birds' eggs	- - -	625
Charles M. Higginson collection of minerals		500
Charles W. Johnson collection of diptera	- - -	300
J. W. Velie collection of Florida fauna.		600
Skeleton of a mammoth.		



LEANDER MCCORMICK COLLECTION OF MAMMAL HEADS.

That this the successful third period of the Academy's history may never be closed unless it be by some marked and unusual achievement, is the earnest wish of all its members.

The following persons have served in the offices of president, secretary, trustee, director and curator:

PRESIDENTS.

Professor James V. Z. Blaney	1865-1861
Dr. Franklin Scammon	1862-1864
Dr. Edmund Andrews	1865
George C. Walker	1866-1868
Dr. Edmund Andrews	1869-1870
John W. Foster	1871-1873
Dr. Hosmer A. Johnson	1874-1875
Eliphalet W. Blatchford	1876-1878
Henry H. Babcock	1878-1881
William Bross	1882
Dr. Edmund Andrews	1883-1891
Dr. Selim H. Peabody	1892-1894
Charles M. Higginson	1895-1896
Dr. Thomas C. Chamberlin	1897-

SECRETARIES.

Major Robert Kennicott	1857-1864
Dr. William Stimpson	1865-1872
There was no secretary from the death of William Stimpson in 1872 to 1876.	

Selim H. Peabody	1876-1878
J. W. Velie	1879-1891
William K. Higley	1892-1894
Frank C. Baker	1895-1897
William K. Higley	1898-

TRUSTEES.

J. Young Scammon	1864-1883
George C. Walker	1864-1898
Horatio G. Loomis	1864-1877
Daniel Thompson	1864-1868
Edmund Aiken	1864-1867
Ezra B. McCagg	1864-1883
Eliphalet W. Blatchford	1864-
William C. Doggett	1864-1876
Robert Kennicott	1864-1866
William Stimpson	1867-1872
Edwin H. Sheldon	1868-1891

George H. Rumsey.....	1873
William C. Egan	1882-1897
Henry W. Fuller.....	1883
Nathaniel K. Fairbank	1883-1884
Benjamin W. Thomas.....	1883-1895
Edmund Andrews	1883-1894
Hosmer A. Johnson	1883-1891
Charles M. Higginson.....	1883-1899
Joseph Frank.....	1891-1892
James H. McVicker.....	1891-1892
Edward E. Ayer.....	1891-1893
John H. Long.....	1891-1895
Samuel J. Jones.....	1891-1899
Charles F. Gunther	1891-
Joseph R. Putnam	1892-
Ira J. Geer	1894-
Selim H. Peabody.....	1895-1896
Lyman J. Gage	1895-1896
Charles Dickinson.....	1895-1900
John Wilkinson	1896-
Louis E. Laflin.....	1896-
Charles S. Raddin.....	1898-
Charles E. Affeld.....	1899-
Ira J. Mason.....	1901-

DIRECTORS.

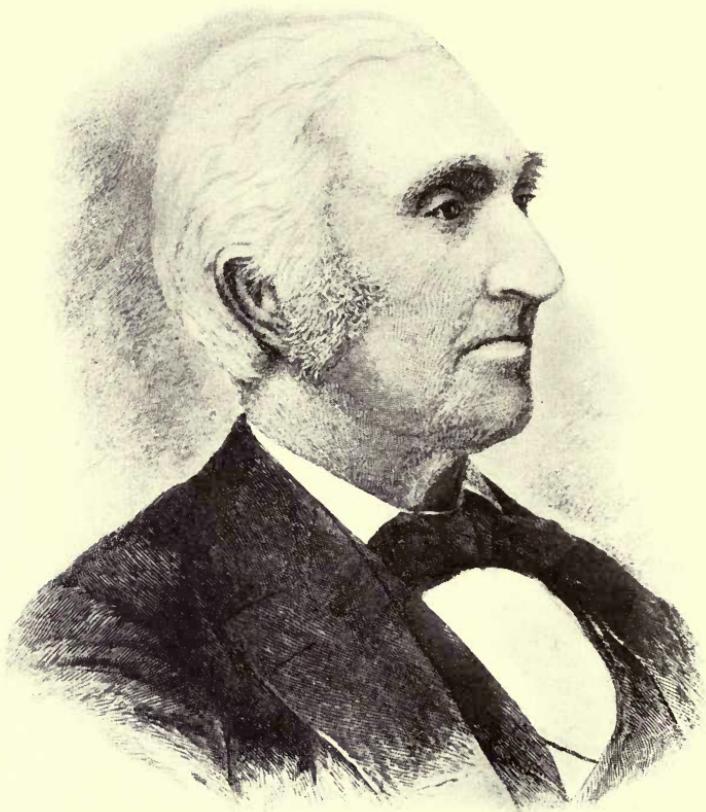
Robert Kennicott	1865-1866
William Stimpson	1866-1872

CURATORS.

Edmund Andrews.....	1856-1863
John M. Woodworth.....	1862-1863
Robert Kennicott.....	1864
William Stimpson	1865-1872
J. W. Velie (acting)	1873-1876
Selim H. Peabody.....	1876-1878
J. W. Velie	1879-1893
Frank C. Baker	1894-

WILLIAM KERR HIGLEY.





MATTHEW LAFLIN.

MATTHEW LAFLIN.

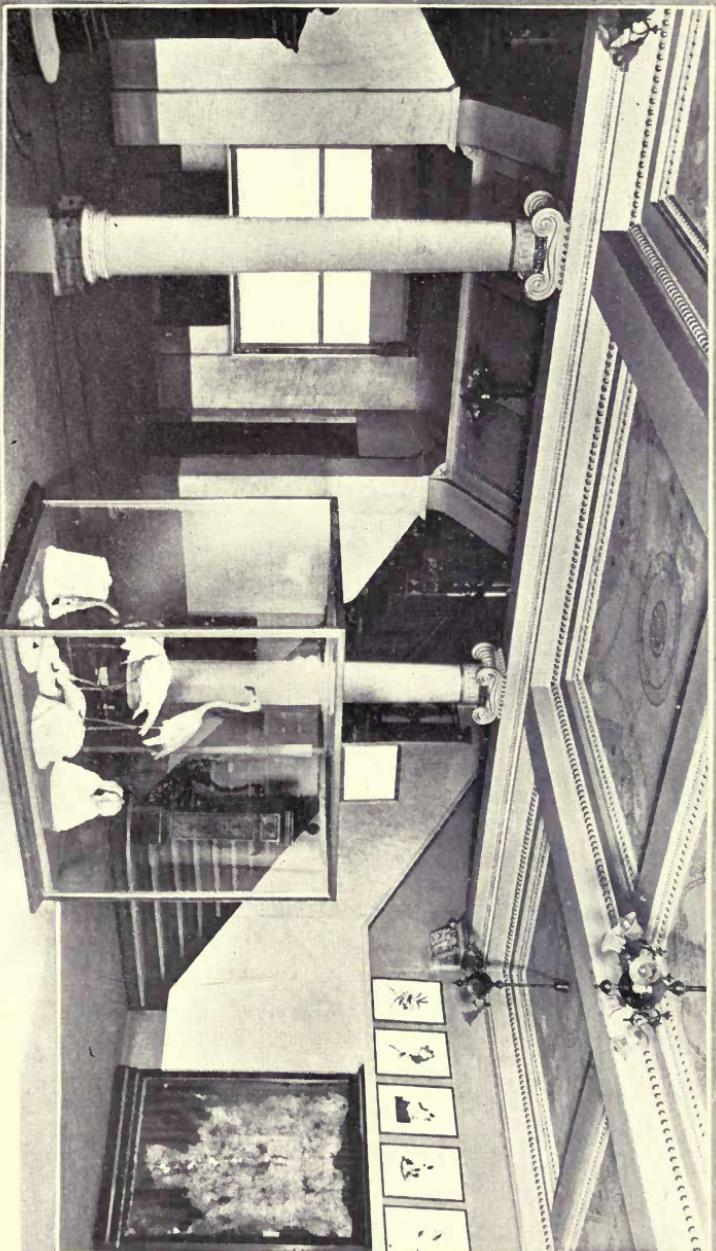
John Kinzie was the father of Chicago in a generic sense. Matthew Laflin is entitled to that distinction in a special sense, because he was the instrument by which so many of her permanent and useful industries have been built. He was born in 1803, in Southwick, Mass., being of Anglo-Scotch-Irish extraction. The genius of the bright New England lad drew its inspiration from other sources than Plymouth Rock. Economy of pennies and of time, and a hardening of muscle with use, are omnipresent in that land, that Daniel Webster said was a good place in which to be born. There we find Mr. Laflin's endowment for a business life. His first venture was in the manufacture of powder, to make a market for which Chicago offered an inviting field, when work began on the Illinois and Michigan canal in 1837. It was then he came to this place and found a little mud clad village of 4,000 inhabitants which won his confidence, and here he cast his lot, and here, as well as at St. Louis, Milwaukee and Springfield, he established agencies for the sale of powder from his mills at Saugerties, New York. During the winter of 1838-39 he lived with his family in Old Fort Dearborn, thus associating himself with the military period of Chicago's history. His first venture of a speculative character was buying real estate, which soon made him a man of great wealth. He built the original Bull's Head hotel, on Ogden avenue and Madison street, as a resort for stock men, around which he built barns, sheds and cattle pens. This was the pioneer of the stock yards system, now so prominent a source of wealth in Chicago. In 1851 he established the first omnibus line, running from Bull's Head to the State street market, then in existence, but abandoned four or five years later. The Bull's Head tavern was torn down

in 1876, after having been used as an asylum for inebriates, called the Washingtonian Home.

Mr. Laflin was a factor in starting the first system of water works in Chicago. It had been incorporated by the state in 1836, but the work of supplying the city with lake water was not begun till 1840. A reservoir for this purpose was built of pine lumber near the shore at the foot of Lake street, into which water was pumped from the lake and thence distributed by wooden pipes through the city. The power used for pumping was supplied by a flouring mill where the old Adams house was subsequently built, opposite the Illinois Central depot. He operated this system of water works for several years, until substituted by the present system, established by the city council and put into operation in 1854.

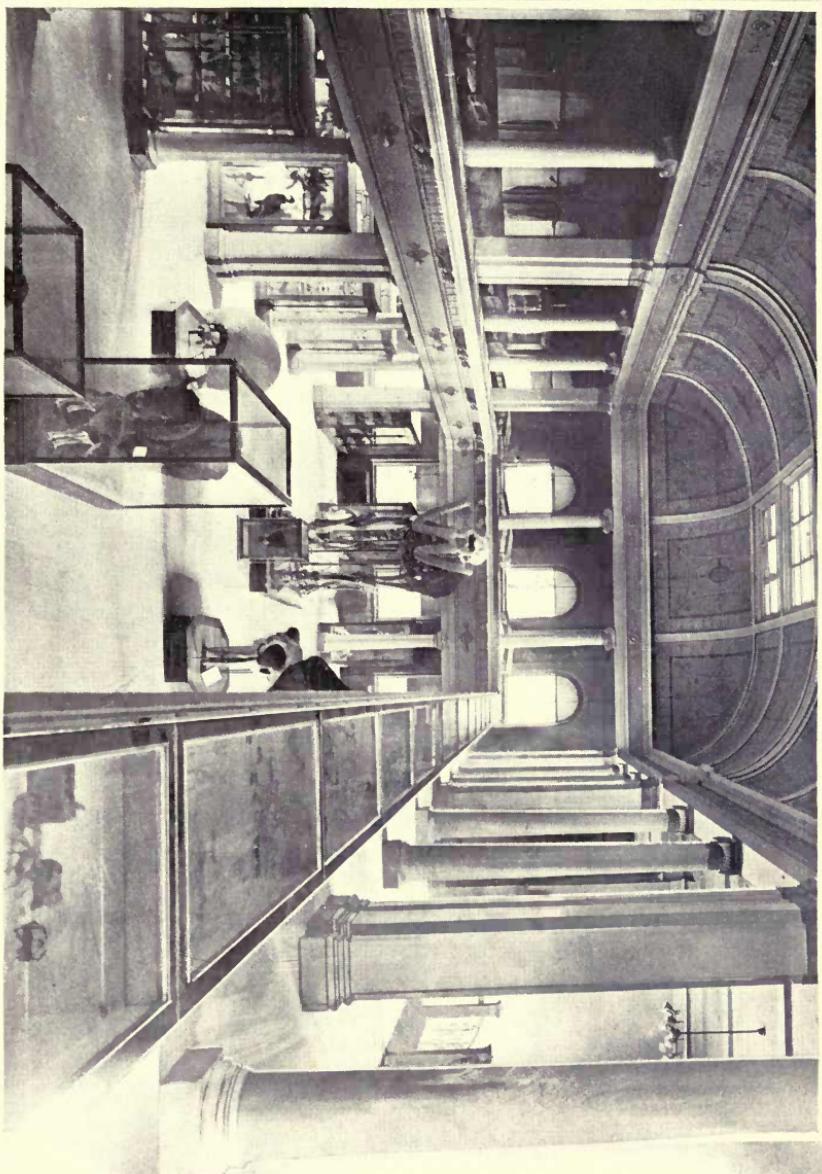
Mr. Laflin married in Canton, in 1827, Miss Henrietta Hinman, of Lee, Mass.; they had three children, George and Georgiana, twins, and Lycurgus. His first wife died, and he afterward married Miss Catherine King, of Westfield, Mass. His second wife died in the winter of 1891, the family left then consisting of Mr. Laflin and two sons by his first wife, George H. and Lycurgus Laflin, both well known business men of Chicago, ever identified with its growing interest, both of whom have sons in the prime of life. Mr. Matthew Laflin, the venerable grandfather, died at his home May 20, 1897. He built his most enduring monument by erecting the building of the Academy of Sciences in Lincoln Park, which was the crowning work of his long and useful life.

RUFUS BLANCHARD.



ENTRANCE HALL TO THE MUSEUM.





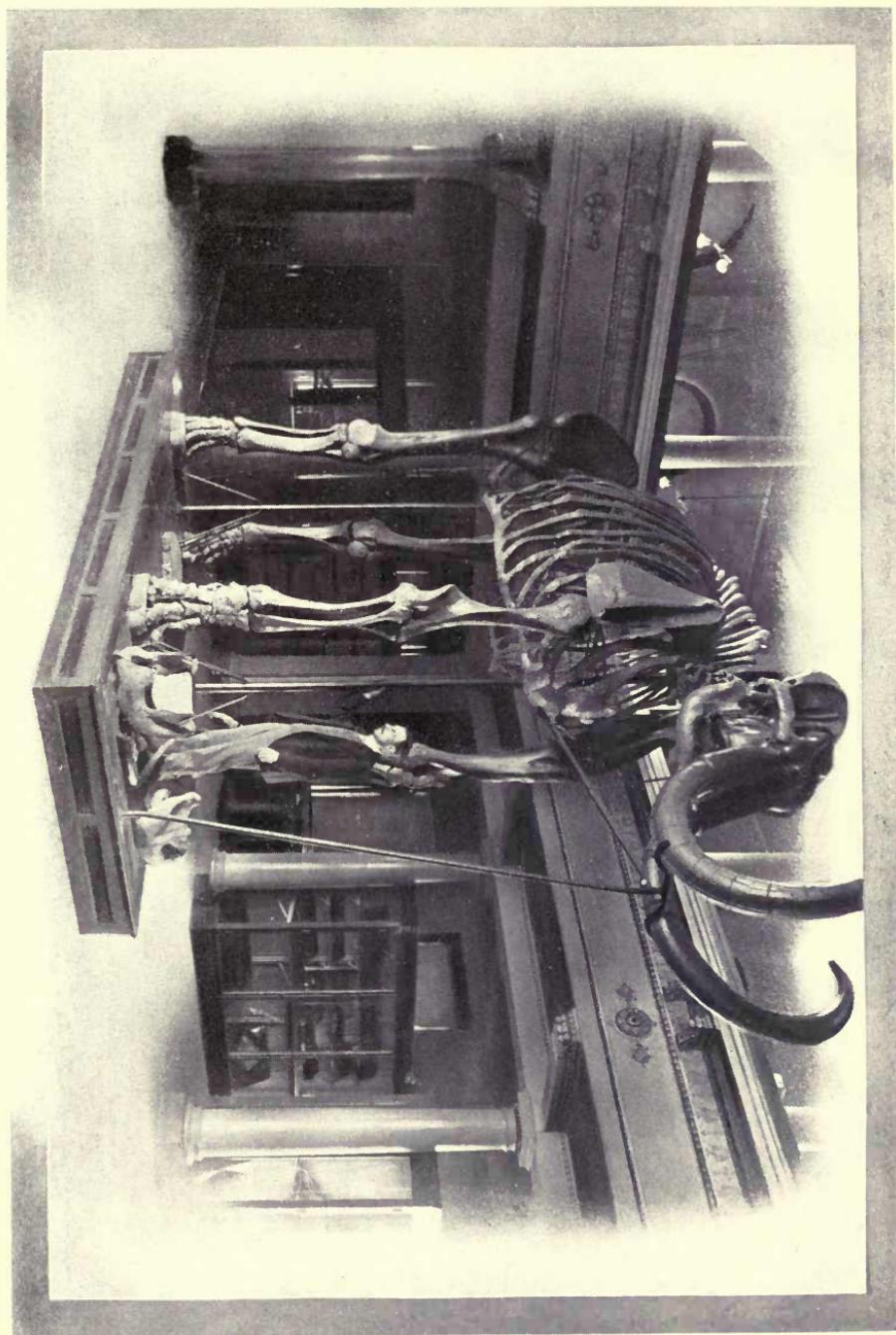
VIEW OF THE MUSEUM FROM THE GALLERY.





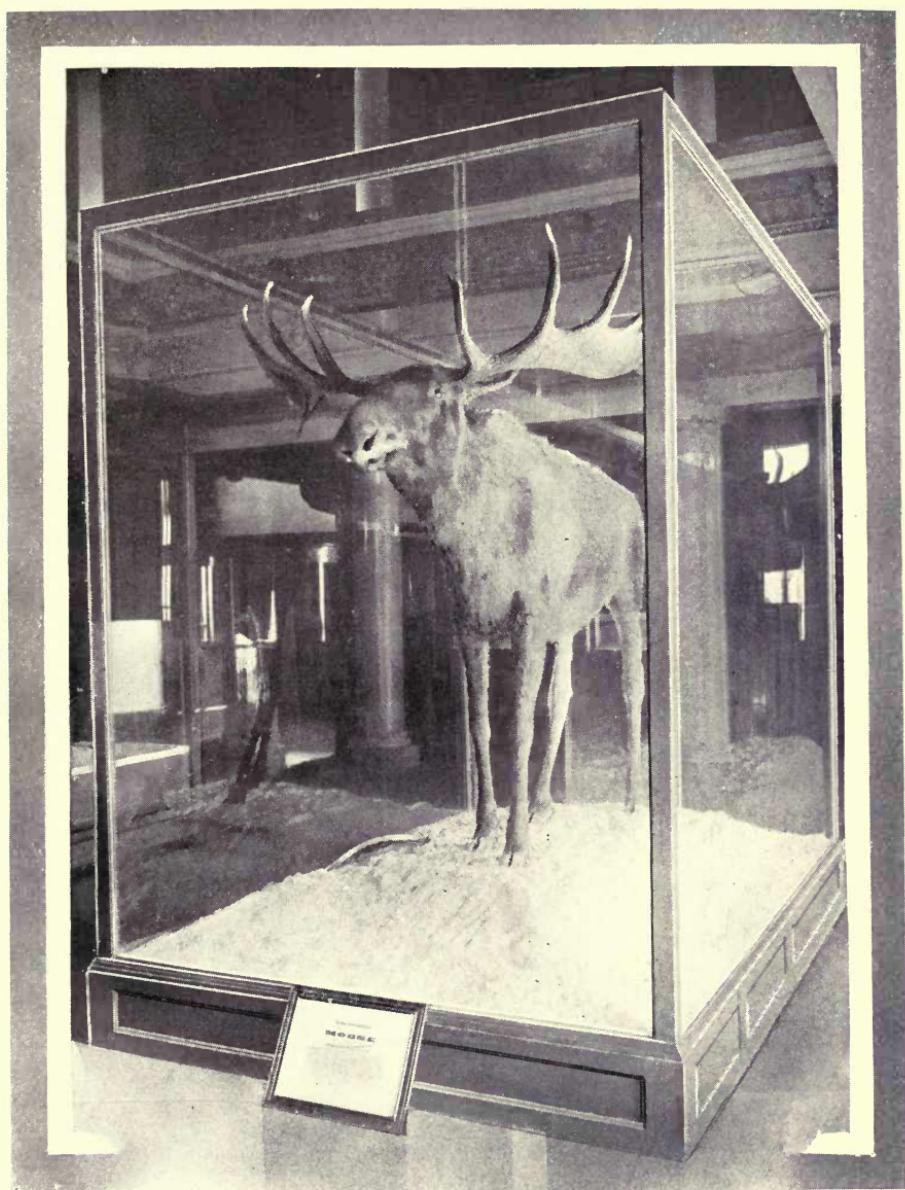
VIEW ON THE MAIN FLOOR.





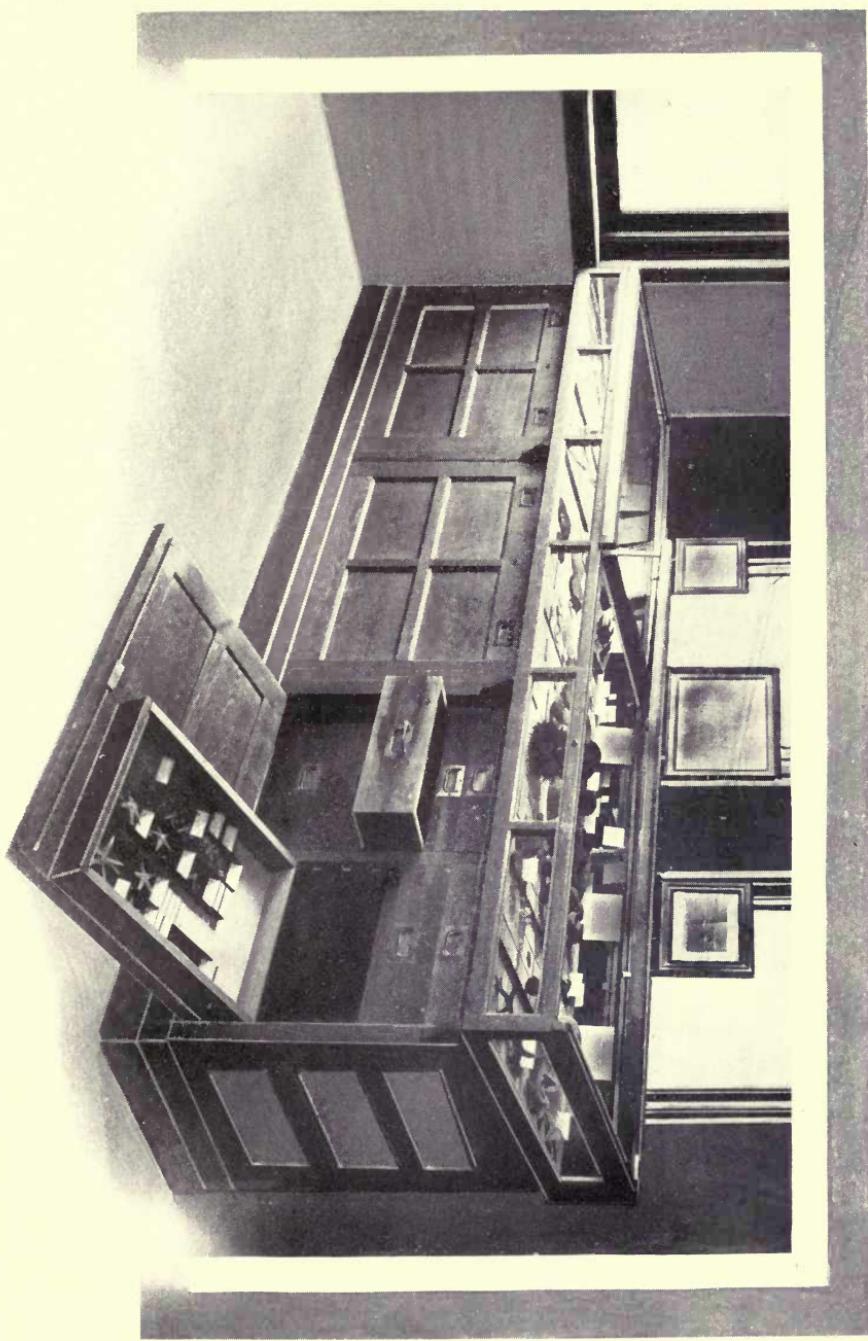
SKELETON OF MAMMOTH.



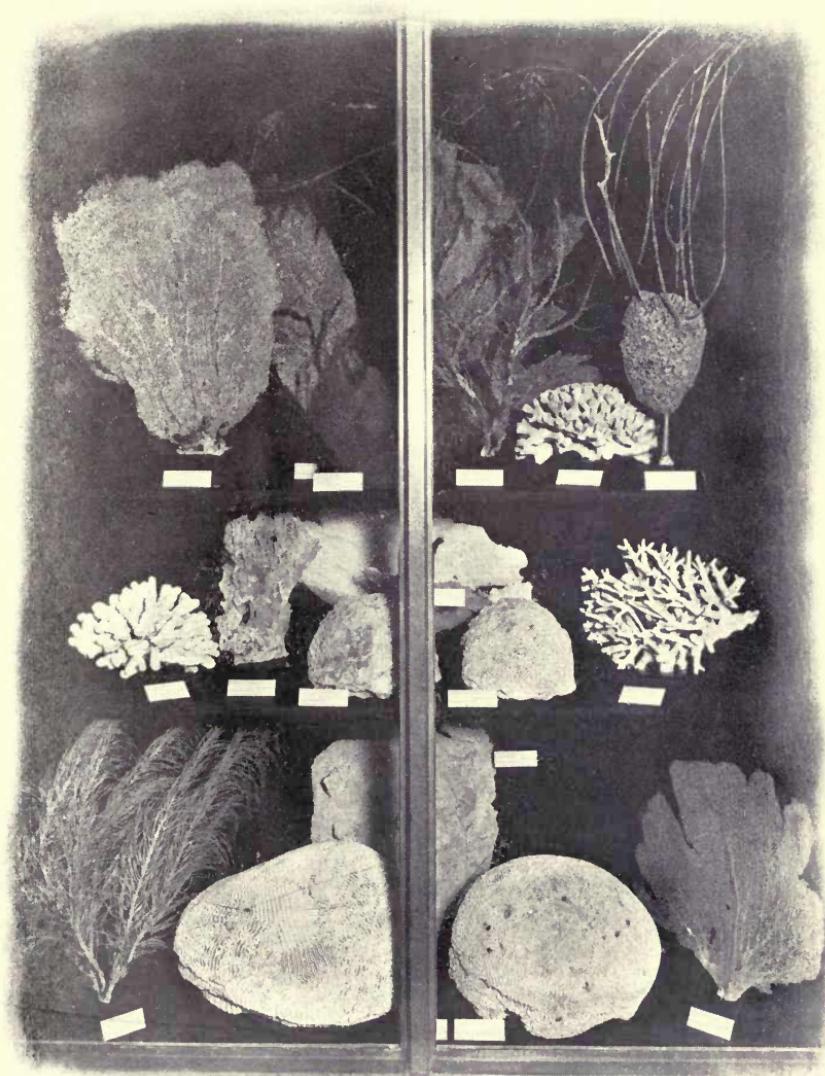


ALASKAN MOOSE.





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A CASE OF CORALS.



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